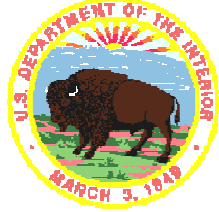




## BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
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### **For Immediate Release**

**Release No. OR-030-99-11**

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### **Information Meeting on South Fork Walla Walla Bridge Replacement**

Baker City, OR, June 3—Officials of the Bureau of Land Management will host a public information meeting on June 14 in Milton-Freewater, Oregon, to discuss plans for replacing the South Fork Walla Walla Bridge, and the need to close some public access routes into the general area during the 1999 prime recreation season. The meeting will be held at the Community Building, Ward and NE 5<sup>th</sup>, and will begin at 7 p.m..

Acting Baker Field Office Manager Ted Davis said the meeting will be an opportunity to discuss the need to close the popular South Fork Walla Walla River Trailhead and much of the area beyond Harris County Park during the construction period of July 1 through September 8, 1999. "We will do everything we can to complete the project rapidly so public entry can once again be allowed. Because of safety concerns, however, it will be necessary to close the trailhead and access to some of the outlying area for up to ten weeks during the summer of 1999."

Harris County Park will continue to be open for public use throughout the construction period.

Agency engineers will be on hand at the public meeting to outline the reasons for bridge replacement and new bridge specifications. Chief Project Engineer Dave Rosenkrance said, "This bridge was built in 1979. The wood has rotted over the last 20 years, and consequently, the bridge is on the verge of being condemned. We want to replace the wooden bridge with a steel bridge before it is condemned and becomes totally unusable."

Persons interested in learning about the bridge replacement efforts and effects on recreational use of the area in the summer of 1999 are urged to attend the meeting. Questions about the meeting and the project can be directed to Public Affairs Officer Gay Ernst at 541-523-1418.

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